

Madam Speaker, given the lot of the Kurds, it is more than understandable that they set up their own Congress and take charge of their own destiny. They have the people, the resources and the political understanding to succeed in their dream of statehood.

Madam Speaker, I need also at this time to address the situation of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish leader who, according to a recent New York Times article, was handed over to the Turks with the help of our intelligence services. As you may recall, he had ventured to Europe from his home base in the Middle East to seek a political solution to the enduring Kurdish struggle for basic human rights. I spoke on this floor welcoming his declaration of cease-fire and hoped, it now seems against hope, to see the debate on the Kurdish question change from war to peace and from confrontation to dialogue.

Mr. Ocalan, denied a refuge in Rome, was promised the safe passage through Greece to the Hague where he intended to sue the Government of Turkey at the International Court of Justice for its crimes against the Kurds. But the laws of granting asylum to political figures, as old as the time of prophets, were suspended in this case. Abdullah Ocalan, the most popular Kurdish figure of the day, was arrested. Through a deal that smacks of political venality at its worst, he was handed over to the Turks and now awaits his most likely execution as the sole inmate in the Imrali Island prison in the Sea of Marmara.

Madam Speaker, it is unbecoming of this great power to aid and abet dictatorships which are merely disguised as democracies. Those who imprison duly elected representatives such as Layla Zana in Turkey for testifying before a standing committee of this Congress cannot and should not enjoy our support. Leaders such as Abdullah Ocalan, despite his violent past, still hold the promise of peace and reconciliation for the Kurds with their neighbors. The euphoria that we all felt for the freedom of captive nations in the former Soviet Union now must extend to our allies and their subjects as well.

So we welcome the convening of the National Congress of Kurdistan. They are dreaming what to many may seem an impossible dream, the dream of a united Kurdish people in the Nation of Kurdistan.

TAIWAN CONGRATULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago President Lee won a landslide victory in the first presidential election in the history of China. As a democratic elected presi-

dent, he demonstrated to the world that democracy could indeed thrive in Taiwan. During the last 3 years President Lee continued to implement his program for the Republic of China. As a result, Taiwan presently has free elections in every level of government, a free press, and holds respect for human rights in the highest regard.

As a believer in increasing cooperation between Taiwan and mainland China, President Lee continued to emphasize that it is necessary for Taiwan and the mainland to work together to conduct further discussions on the issue of reunification. Many close to the president maintain that his one true dream is to witness a unified China under the principle of democracy rules, free enterprise and the distribution of wealth.

A few years ago I had the privilege of being President Lee's guest on a visit to Taiwan. Since that time I perceive him as a world class statesman and hope that he will be able to influence mainland China to democratize and reunify with Taiwan on the basis of democratic principles. As a faithful friend of the United States, we must give him our wholehearted support as his presence on the island is symbolic of the economy and a politically stable Asia.

GUNS AND CHILDREN—THEY DO NOT MIX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thought it was important to come to the floor of the House to address again the crisis that we are facing in this Nation, and that crisis is that of the safety of our children.

Today unfortunately as the sun rose another youngster took weapons to school and shot children. I am most grateful, as most mothers and fathers, families, that this tragedy did not result in death. I cannot imagine what people in Littleton, Colorado, are thinking, or Jonesboro, or the State of Pennsylvania, or my own State of Texas, and rather than be political and politicize this, I am simply begging with all of the intellect in this Congress that we have the courage to admit that there are many concerns.

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There is the entertainment industry, violence in videos. There is the issue of intergenerational conflict or disconnect because maybe adults and children are not talking the way they should.

There is the concern that I have raised and will be presenting in legislation, Give a Child a Chance Omnibus Mental Health Services bill for 1999 where we can focus on the fact that

children need mental health services, both children who can afford it and those who cannot.

I think right now, in light of the Senate's actions today, we realize that gun legislation is not political. Over 89 percent of the American public are waking up and saying we must have safety locks. It is important to keep from children, or young people under 21, guns. We must close the loopholes in pawn shops and in gun shows so that there are no more opportunities for people to randomly walk in and get guns, as a young lady did on behalf of Eric Harris in Littleton, Colorado.

Parents are in pain. Children are in fear. Our children can talk about guns and their feeling of being unsafe. They can talk about the fact that they do not know whether their graduation will be safe or whether large gatherings will be safe.

Many of us as women Members of Congress have gathered. We gathered before Mother's Day and asked Speaker HASTERT to ensure that we pass gun legislation before Father's Day. I want to go a step further. We have next week. We should not leave here until we say not only to the American people but the world that we pride ourselves, as loving our children greater than our guns, and in fact this is not taking away guns from people who use them for sports and legally. This is saying that we have a proliferation of guns and our children are asking or crying out for us to be restrained and to restrain them; 250 million Americans, 260 million guns on the street.

Why cannot we find common ground on legislation that I passed in my city holding parents responsible, adults, for allowing guns to be in children's hands and thereby causing an injury? It was unanimously supported and then passed in the State of Texas, certainly a State that has its share of guns.

Safety locks, as has been said eloquently by my colleagues, there are regulations of diaper bags and regulations of parks and schools and equipment that children use. Why not guns? Why can we not keep guns out of the hands of those under 21? Why can we not do instant check at gun shows where all kinds of people come and, believe me, they use that method to get guns. Why can we not have tracing so that felons who are now dealing with the black market can be found? Why can we not have an amendment that deals with gun running?

It is very important, Madam Speaker, that the women in this House stand up. I demand that we collectively raise our voices to the Speaker, and I guess I demand of him, to not shy away from the responsibility.

Put the NRA aside. It has its own agenda, and anyone who says it does not is not reading all of their PR, their public relations. I did not come here to point the finger. I have mentioned the

entertainment industry. They know what they can do.

This is a pyramid. We are building blocks. I have mentioned the need for more mental health services from K to 12, intervention risk assessment in every piece of legislation, that I can. In addition to the omnibus bill, I am going to be raising my voice for mental health services. It is too long and too late where it is a stigma, so that is why children have stopped taking their medication because there is a stigma all around. So if the parent does not tell them they certainly do not get reinforced in school, and troubled children are in our schools without medication.

So, Madam Speaker, I am not pointing the finger. I am speaking out of anguish and I am speaking out of pain. I cannot go another day without us doing something about these guns. We must pass legislation this week as we come back.

While I am home in the district this weekend, whoever will hear me, I will be talking about are we going to stand up for our children? Tomorrow at a press conference on Head Start I will be talking about our children and guns.

Madam Speaker, I hope that we can collectively indicate to the American people we have heard them. This is a crisis and we know their pain.

The Federal Government does not want to take over education of their children. We just want to take over the fact that we want our children to survive and we are going to help them with legislation and money.

Madam Speaker, I hope that we will all stand together next week as we return to this Congress.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1141) "An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g, of title 11, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Inter-parliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Quebec City, Canada, May 20-24, 1999—

the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);
the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE);
the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE);
the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS);

the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH); and
the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

HISTORY OF YUGOSLAVIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I come tonight to give maybe a little different perspective on the war in Kosovo than most people have seen from the spin from NATO and the White House. I would like to give some information that has not been widely disseminated but I think is important before any solution in the Balkans is possible.

First of all, Rambouillet, which was an attempt at an agreement which was not an agreement, to bring the Muslim and Serbian Yugoslavs together. Let me go back first with Rambouillet and explain where Rambouillet was a very failed foreign policy effort.

I use the quotes of both Larry Eagleburger and Henry Kissinger in saying that Rambouillet was a failed foreign policy from the start.

Look at history, and I met with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, who I disagree with probably more than I agree, but one thing I respected about Reverend Jackson was not necessarily that he brought our prisoners back, that was good, but his ability to place himself in the shoes of either side of an argument. Even if he disagrees with one side or another, he understands that before someone can ever have a solution that they have to understand the feelings and what is in the mind and the heart of both sides, or there is no choice whatsoever.

Part of that understanding is the history of greater Yugoslavia. On April 5, 1941, just last month the anniversary, Germany bombed Belgrade. They put over 700,000 Nazis into Kosovo in the area. The Nazis were supported by a half a million Croats, and about a quarter of that number of Muslims. One in three Serbs died in Kosovo fighting the Nazis, the Croats and the Muslims.

The civilians in Kosovo had to flee across the Danube River for their lives, while the forces under a General Miholevic, not Milosevic but Miholevic, supported both the partisans and the loyalists. The Chetniks were more of a guerilla warfare.

In the three-year period of over a million Nazis, the Chetniks, the partisans and the loyalists either killed or pushed out every Croatian, Muslim and Nazi out of Kosovo.

In 1387, the Serbs celebrate still Kosovo and the founding of their Or-

thodox Catholic church at 1,600 different churches and shrines.

So Rambouillet, I would ask after that kind of history, would a person if they were in any of the United States, if they were in Texas, if they were in California and say Mexico populated either one of those States by 90 percent and all of a sudden they wanted California or Texas to go to Mexico, does anyone think the United States would allow that to happen? I do not, absolutely.

The second part of Rambouillet said that, oh, by the way, you cannot have any of your police force in Kosovo; that even though Kosovo is part of greater Serbia or Yugoslavia, none of your laws apply; only the laws of the majority which are the Albanians, and in 3 years there will be a vote as to whether Albania remains part of Serbia.

Not Milosevic but the Serbian people, and the understanding of what Kosovo means to the Serbs, was a great, great failure of this administration and the President to recognize. Either the President recognized it and wanted us to go to war or he did not recognize the importance of Kosovo to the Serbian people. Either way, it is why we are at the position we are today.

To say that diplomatic efforts were exhausted is far from the truth, and there are still ways for us to get out of this particular nightmare.

I fought in Vietnam. I spent 20 years of my life in the military as a senior commander, responsible both for a Navy fighter weapons top gun and at Naval staff on the planning, the invasion of Southeast Asia and European countries, and my friends from the Pentagon have told me that they told the President not to conduct air strikes into Kosovo.

Why? They said, first of all, air strikes alone would not achieve a single goal that the President wanted. Secondly, that every one of the problems that existed then would be exacerbated, would be increased. They told the President that it is highly probable and most likely that the Serb forces would force evacuation of Albanians, since that had been, in their eyes, a big problem over the last two decades.

Madam Speaker, take a look at the children's eyes that are refugees today, a million refugees walking through the snow. I have two daughters and I looked as if my own daughters had to go through this, and we need to thank God every day that we live in a country where that does not happen. In my view, there are two people that have caused that mass evacuation and forced the refugees. One is Milosevic and the other is the President of the United States by forcing the bombing.

Most people do not realize the hysteria: This is another Nazi, this is another Holocaust. Most people do not realize the total number, the total number of people killed in Kosovo in a